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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SYG WALDHEIM TO PROPOSE RENEWED CYPRUS TALKS

USUN HAS LEARNED THAT SYG WALDHEIM PLANS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS TO INSTRUCT HIS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, PEREZ DE CUELLAR, TO PROPOSE THE NEXT ROUND OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS ON CYPRUS BE HELD JANUARY 15 IN NEW YORK. THIS IS APPARENTLY ACCEPTABLE TO CLERIDES AND THE TWO PARENT COUNTRIES, BUT DENKTASH HAS YET TO REPLY. WALDHEIM'S INTENTION IS TO:

--HOLD TEN DAYS TO TWO WEEKS OF DISCUSSIONS IN NEW YORK TO WORK OUT THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF AN AGREEMENT ON THE EXTENT OF TERRITORIAL RELINQUISHMENT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS, AND BIZONALITY; THEN,

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--MOVE THE TALKS TO NICOSIA OR ANOTHER SITE FOR FUR-

THER NEGOTIATIONS ON THE DETAILED, TECHNICAL WORK.

CLERIDES HAS TOLD PEREZ:

--THE CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT WANTS TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE RESUMED TALKS ARE UNDER THE FRAMEWORK OF GA RESOLUTION 3395.

--NEW YORK, GENEVA AND VIENNA ARE ACCEPTABLE SITES, BUT HE OPPOSES NICOSIA.

--THE NEXT ROUND SHOULD LOOK AT AREAS OF TERRITORY TO BE GIVEN UP RATHER THAN AT PERCENTAGES. (SECRET)
USUN 6947 (EXDIS), 12/23.)

2. SOVIET PRESS ATTACKS MOYNIHAN AND PRESIDENT FORD

THE SOVIET PRESS HAS ATTACKED AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN AND HAS RETURNED VOLLEYS AGAINST FORD'S CRITICISM OF SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA:

--IZVESTIYA, CALLING MOYNIHAN THE "IDOL OF THE ZIONISTS IN THE UN," CHARGES THAT HE IS TRYING TO GAIN FAVOR AMONG ZIONISTS IN NEW YORK IN ORDER TO ASSURE HIMSELF OF AN ELECTORAL VICTORY IN A NEW YORK SENATORIAL OR GUBERNATORIAL RACE.

--PRAVDA ACCUSES THE US OF COLLUSION WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA AND CONCLUDES THAT "CERTAIN FORCES IN THE US -- IMPLICITLY INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT -- WANT TO COVER UP SUPPORT FOR ARMED INTERVENTION AGAINST THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA BY DISCUSSION OF THE "THREAT OF SOVIET INTERFERENCE" IN THE AREA.

EMBASSY MOSCOW COMMENTS: THE SEVERITY OF MOSCOW'S ATTACKS ON AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN SHOWS HE "HAS DRAWN SOME BLOOD HERE." PRAVDA'S ATTACK IS THE MOST EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO THE PRESIDENT WE HAVE SEEN IN THE SOVIET MEDIA FOR SOME TIME. IF UNFAVORABLE REFERENCES TO THE PRESIDENT MULTIPLY THEY WILL AT THE VERY LEAST SIGNAL TO SOVIET READERS SHARP-
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LY RISING CONCERN OVER US INTENTIONS. (CONFIDENTIAL) MOSCOW 18288 AND 18279, 12/22.)

3. SAHARA DEVELOPMENTS: ESCALATING THIRD PARTY INVOLVEMENT

THREE EMBASSIES, REPORTING ON SAHARA DEVELOPMENTS, HAVE DRAWN ATTENTION TO THE INCREASED MILITARY ACTIVITY AND

THIRD PARTY INVOLVEMENT IN THE CONFLICT:

--THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR ADMITTED TO EMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT THAT THE FRENCH HAVE RESPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY TO URGENT MAURITANIAN REQUESTS FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE. (AN ALGERIAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL WONDERED IF THE FRENCH KNOW THE PRICE THEY WILL HAVE TO PAY FOR THESE DELIVERIES AND SUGGESTED MAURITANIA DOES NOT APPRECIATE THE DEVASTATING IMPACT THE ALGERIAN DECISION TO WITHHOLD ASSISTANCE WILL HAVE ON THE MAURITANIAN ECONOMY.)

--EMBASSY ALGIERS REPORTS THAT, DESPITE SOVIET DENIALS, VARIOUS SOURCES HAVE CONFIRMED THAT SOVIET ARMS SHIPMENTS TO ALGERIA ARE CONTINUING.

--EMBASSY RABAT OBSERVES THAT IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTER HAMMADI IS IN RABAT SOUNDING OUT THE POSSIBILITIES FOR IRAQI MEDIATION.

MEANWHILE, MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTER LARAKI TOLD AMBASSADOR NEUMANN THAT THE GOM SEEKS NO CONFLICT WITH ALGERIA. MOROCCAN MILITARY ACTIVITY IS DESIGNED ONLY TO IMPRESS THE ALGERIANS WITH MOROCCO'S SERIOUSNESS AND TO DISCOURAGE THEM FROM ACTING HASTILY. (SECRET) NOUAKCHOTT 2640 (EXDIS) AND ALGIERS 3647; (CONFIDENTIAL) RABAT 6191, 12/22.)

4. PORTUGUESE ECONOMIC MEASURES TIMIDLY AUSTERE

THE FIRST GROUP OF LONG-AWAITED MEASURES DESIGNED TO STABILIZE THE ECONOMY WAS APPROVED AND PUBLISHED BY THE PORTUGUESE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON DECEMBER 20. THE OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE NOTED SOME MEASURES WILL ENTAIL SACRIFICE BUT ARE NECESSARY TO BEGIN ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL RECUPERATION, SECRET

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REDUCE HEAVY GOP BUDGET DEFICITS, AND DEFEND AGAINST THE DANGEROUS BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SITUATION. EMBASSY LISBON, COMMENTING ON THE MEASURES, OBSERVES:

--THE DECISIONS CLEARLY INDICATE THAT THE GOP IS OPTING FOR GRADUAL RATHER THAN ABRUPT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AUSTERITY PROGRAM, HOPING TO MINIMIZE THE IMPACT OF THE PROGRAM ON THE LOWEST INCOME SECTORS.

--THE ANNOUNCED TAX INCREASES ARE THE ONLY GENUINE AUSTERITY DECISIONS, BUT THEIR IMPORTANCE CANNOT BE GAUGED UNTIL THE GOP CLARIFIES THE ACTION TAKEN.

THE MEASURES NOTABLY FAILED TO INCLUDE ANY MENTION OF WAGE-PRICE CONTROLS. AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE WAGE POLICY IS EX-

PECTED FROM A DECEMBER 23 MEETING, WHILE PRICE INCREASES

WILL APPARENTLY BE INTRODUCED LATER BY INDIVIDUAL MINISTRIES. (UNCLASSIFIED) LISBON 7573 AND (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) LISBON 7585, 12/22.)

5. LEBANON: TWO MORE SHOOTING DAYS 'TIL CHRISTMAS

AS THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT, SYRIA, AND MODERATE PALESTINIANS ATTEMPT TO HOLD THE CEASE FIRE TOGETHER, EMBASSY BEIRUT REPORTS THAT SNIPING CONTINUES, HEAVY FIGHTING HAS FLARED UP IN THE TOWN OF MANSOURIYAH, AND ARMED MEN HAVE RETURNED TO SOME BEIRUT STREETS PREVIOUSLY CLEARED.

MEANWHILE, SYRIA HAS BECOME THE FOCUS OF MEDIATION IN THE CRISIS:

--SYRIAN CHIEF OF STAFF SHEHABI LEFT BEIRUT DECEMBER 21 CALLING HIS NEGOTIATIONS "POSITIVE" DESPITE THE BERATING HE SUPPOSEDLY TOOK FROM PRESIDENT FRANGIE FOR SYRIAN AND PALESTINIAN INFILTRATION INTO LEBANON.

--PRIME MINISTER KARAME DEPARTED FOR DAMASCUS THE FOLLOWING DAY. THERE HE WILL WORK HARD TO HAVE HIMSELF INVITED TO THE DAMASCUS SUMMIT MEETING, WHICH WOULD GROUP HIM WITH ASAD AND SAUDI KING KHALID. (CONFIDENTIAL)
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